



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

VOLUME 4 • ISSUE 14 • April 4, 2008



## Mobile Data Terminal Consortium Meeting

By Pete Mohan [pmohan@mt.gov](mailto:pmohan@mt.gov)

The Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Board met on March 27 at 10:00 am at the City Center Motel, in Bozeman. Sheriff Jim Cashell chaired the meeting and reported on the current status of the project. Dave Clouse, Northrop Grumman, briefed the group on the status of Interoperability Montana (IM) infrastructure progress and how it will impact the group. Sheriff Cashell then reviewed the history of the group and how it progressed to where it is today.

The group decided to establish a Technical Committee to review UHF, VHF, and 700 MHz possibilities for future build out and to decide which type of controller would be best in which jurisdictions. Sheriff Cashell stated that the MDT project is interested in maintaining the three main objectives of the program, which are to build infrastructure, seed MDT systems, and build-out the system Montana wide.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21 at 10:00 am, in the Conference Room at the Best Western City Center, 507 W Main St., in Bozeman.

## IM Finance Sub-Committee Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The IM Finance Sub-Committee met in Helena on March 31. A budget summary was displayed for everyone to review, and it was noted that a discrepancy between DES numbers and the IM spreadsheet still needs to be resolved. Discussion took place with Todd Matsuo, Motorola, about change orders that will ensure that cost match with the current budget. The group also reviewed several Decision/Information Requests (DIRs), and took action on them.

Committee member discussed ownership issues on the microwave network in Gallatin County. The system is owned by several agencies and jurisdictions, such as the Montana Highway Patrol, Montana Dept. of Transportation and the City of Bozeman. The state legislative appropriation cannot be directed to property owned by state agencies. Also, reassurances are needed to guarantee that the technology used is consistent with state standards.

Discussion took place about finance policies, the IM Retreat, procurement, the IM Security Plan and the Deadman Butte site award letter.

The next Finance Sub-Committee meeting is Monday, May 5 at 9:00 am at Northrop Grumman offices. A work session is planned for April 28 from 9:00 to noon.

## IM Governance Committee

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The IM Governance Committee met in Helena on March 31 and reviewed the most recent version of the IM Project Directors (IMPD) bylaws. They will be finalized by the next meeting.

Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, reported on a conference call with Homeland Security regarding the IMPD's sub-grantee status and a motion was made to become an unincorporated association and to file an "assumed business name" with the Secretary of State.

Staffing recommendations have been submitted to the IMPD, and two more are planned. An executive officer should be in place by mid-June. Reports on the fleet mapping and business practices sub-committees were heard.

Legislative objectives for both the 2009 and 2011 sessions were discussed; money will be needed for infrastructure build out, staffing and maintenance contracts.

A sample of the IM Retreat brochure was reviewed and edited. The group also reviewed a rough draft of the Outreach and Education Plan. Bill provided a sample IM Task Tracking Matrix form that will be used to track tasks that the IM Project Directors approve or assign.

The next IMGC meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, beginning at 12:30 at the Dept. of Corrections Annex Building, located behind 515 N. Sanders in Helena.

## IM Project Directors Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Interoperability Montana Project Directors (IMPD) met in Helena on April 1. Chief Michaels introduced Shawn Gullickson, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Senior Telecommunications Specialist, who gave a brief update about their desire to work with state communication systems to enhance interoperability and agent safety.

Bill Fleiner, IM Governance Committee Chair, reported on a FY09 Federal Appropriations Request sent to Senator Max Baucus on March 7. He said the request prioritizes the interoperability needs of smaller jurisdictions, and asked consortia to write letters of support. The IMPD reviewed the latest budget spreadsheet and were updated on work that is underway to establish the IM Project as a sub-grantee for PSIC and COPS grant monies. Bob Murdo, Legal Counsel, reported on the IM Project's



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legal structure, and a motion was passed to become an unincorporated association and to file an "assumed business name" certificate with the Secretary of State. The subtitle of "An association of governments" will be added after the "Interoperability Montana" name. Bill Fleiner also reported that Montana's Dept. of Administration is reviewing the Statement of Work RFP, and it will be released soon.

Cindy Mullaney distributed copies of the Fleet Mapping Sub-Committee's checklist, and emphasized the importance of compiling an inventory of all frequencies and the number and models of radios owned in a jurisdiction. She also noted that the group is working on policy issues and is addressing how to get everyone trained, but they are not conducting training at their meetings.

An election was held for Second Vice Chair position, and Butte Silver-Bow Sheriff John Walsh was elected to the position.

IM Technical Committee (IMTC) Chair, Bob McWilliams, reported that an Executive Board was formed consisting of Kevin Bruski, Roger Smith and himself. Scott Bradford, PSSB, reported on recent Frequency Sub-Committee efforts and results. Roger Smith reported on Network Design, and said that connectivity on the Northern Tier should be established this June.

Ron Baldwin, Northrop Grumman, reviewed the draft IM Security Plan and indicated that the work came in well below the expected budget. The plan follows a federally-prescribed format and explained the security categories of confidentiality, integrity and system availability. The final product is expected by April 14.

Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, reviewed the latest IM Status Report and explained the top three priorities, which are to move forward on the Northern Tier project, the second is to continue work already begun and the third priority is to address new projects.

Jennifer Lince and Rozlyn Haley, University of Montana's Police Dept., were introduced. George Gupton, Western Consortium Project Director, said he will look into a way to formalize the University's involvement with his consortium.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6 at the State Capitol in Helena.

## Northern Tier Interoperability Project Meeting

By Pete Mohan [pmohan@mt.gov](mailto:pmohan@mt.gov)

The Northern Tier Interoperability Project (NTIP) board of directors and technical representatives met in Havre on Thursday, April 3. Project Director Wayne Dusterhoff opened the meeting and the approval of previous meeting minutes was postponed until next month. Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, delivered an update on the progress of the Northern Tier Interoperability site development.

The group discussed project progress and radio communications coverage expansion. Currently the Northern Tier is at the construction and development phase with a large percentage of sites able to accept trunking and microwave. Frequency approvals are progressing. Cindy Mullaney, Flathead County Representative, presented fleet mapping information and the group discussed it. Wayne Dusterhoff told the group he would present the issues developed by the group at the next IM Governance Committee meeting.

The next NTIP meeting will hold a teleconference on Thursday, May 1 beginning at 9:00 am, and the next face-to-face meeting will be on Thursday June 5 beginning at 9:00 am at the Great Northern Motel Conference Room in Havre.

## Upcoming Meetings

### April 15-16

Western Border Interoperability Working Group Mtg.  
Lethbridge, Alberta

### April 17

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Chamber of Commerce Conf. Rm.; 1000 George St.

### April 21-24

Governor's Emergency Preparedness Conference  
Billings • Holiday Inn  
Register at: <http://eu.montana.edu/preparedness/>

### April 24

Interoperability Montana (IM) Technical Committee  
Billings • 8:00 am - noon  
Holiday Inn Grand, 5500 Midland Road

### April 24-25

Interoperability Montana (IM) Retreat  
Billings • Holiday Inn Grand, 5500 Midland Road  
Register at: <http://eu.montana.edu/preparedness/>

### April 28

IM Finance Sub-Committee Work Session  
Helena • 9:00 to noon  
Northrop Grumman, 2401 Colonial Drive

### May 1

NTIP Conference Call • Telephone • 9:00 am